

MGOC SM GHAZIABAD PRESENTS

ANNUAL EDITION 2019

MANNA

A young boy with dark hair is looking up at a Christmas tree. The tree is lit with warm white lights and is the central focus of the image. The background is dark, suggesting it's nighttime. The boy is in the lower right corner, looking towards the tree.

SPECIAL FEATURE :
WINNER OF THE YELDHO THOUGHTS
CHALLENGE -
'HE IS COMING' BY SHERIN P
THAMPY.

CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF MANNA, THE OFFICIAL APP OF
MGOC SM GHAZIABAD

MANNAGHAZIABAD.COM

DECEMBER 2019 | VOL. 1

OUR PATRON



H.H. BASELIOS MARTHOMA PAULOSE II, THE EIGHTH CATHOLICOS OF THE EAST IN MALANKARA

His Holiness Baselios Marthoma Paulose II was enthroned as the Catholicos of the East & Malankara Metropolitan (the Supreme Head of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church of India) on 1st November 2010. His Holiness is the 91st Primate on the Apostolic Throne of St. Thomas.



H.G. DR. YOHANON MAR DEMETRIOS METROPOLITAN

His Grace has been elected as the Metropolitan candidate on 17th February at the Malankara Association held at Sasthamkotta. He is consecrated as Metropolitan on 12th May 2010 at Mar Elia Cathedral, Kottayam. His Grace is serving the Delhi Diocese as its Metropolitan.

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FROM THE
EDITORIAL DESK

At these times when humanity is acclaimed for its scientific temperament and technological advancement, print media - though highly beneficial - has gradually been losing numbers in its audience. Production and distribution have turned out to be a massive task.

Our motive with MANNA has always been spreading the word of God and everything associated with the same finding relevance in the present. We tried bringing it online by establishing it as a website last year so as to be able to cater to a larger audience along with providing them with infinite accessibility.

As our parish celebrates its feast going along with the feast of advent commemorating the birth of Christ at the end of this decade, it is also marking major entry into its book of history with the supreme head of the Church blessing us with his presence this year. We find this occasion as the ideal time to help rejuvenate MANNA - a small initiative under the MGOCSM unit of St.Thomas Orthodox Church, Ghaziabad - as we publish a special edition .

We are, indeed, very grateful to have felt the presence of God throughout the course of its making. Our parish priests have been providing us with constant guidance and support. We are thankful for both our contributors and readers alike who have kept this small publication afloat. We expect further cooperation from your end as we plan to take this vehicle off to greater heights.

Hoping that you will enjoy and cherish this edition, we wish our readers a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

**MGOCSM
GHAZIABAD**

**VICAR
FR.SHAJI MATHEWS**

**ASST. VICAR
FR.LANY CHACKO**

**SECRETARY
SNEHA K. SHAJI**

**JOINT SECRETARY
SHIJIN S. MATHEW**

**TREASURER
ROBIN REJI**

**TECHNICAL HEAD
MATHEWS JOSEPH**

**MANNA TEAM
MANNU MATHEW
MATHEW PV
STEFFI CHERIAN
MILAN K MATHEW**

FROM THE

DIOCESAN SECRETARY



**FR. SAJI
YOHANNAN**

The Gospel of St Luke portrays a group of shepherds, who were probably the first people to learn about the birth of a Savior and who visited the new born Baby at the manger and proclaimed the divine birth in public. St. Luke “carefully investigated everything from the beginning” (Luke 1:1-4) and reported in Chapter 2: 8-20 about the specially chosen shepherds who received the great message of universal importance.

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told".

I really wonder why the angels appeared to a group of unnamed shepherds at night outside a small village called Bethlehem to proclaim a message of universal importance.

Shepherds were poor people who watched over their flock, a job which lacked any sense of respect or dignity from the society. It was perceived to be the last resort for a jobless man. However, shepherds were tough, tough in every sense of the word. They had to stay up all night and all day in order to deal with troublesome animals, fight wolves, lions, and bears to protect his flock. Moreover, shepherds were intimidating. Bishop Craig Satterlee writes, "Society stereotyped shepherds as liars, degenerates, and thieves. The testimony of shepherds was not admissible in court, and many towns had ordinances barring shepherds from their city limits. The religious establishment took a particularly dim view of shepherds since the regular exercise of shepherds' duties kept them from observing the Sabbath and rendered them ritually unclean. The Pharisees classed shepherds with tax collectors and prostitutes, persons who were "sinners" by virtue of their vocation." Hence, they belonged to the lower ranks of the society.

But the question remains:

Why shepherds?

One could argue that the conception and birth of Jesus Christ was the greatest event in history. God had become a human being, was born in Bethlehem, and was named Jesus. Yet, this good news was proclaimed by angels to these shepherds. If protocol demands, the news of this importance should have been told to the highest authorities in the region, not the world. It should have been announced by the angels to Caesar Augustus in Rome? or to the Roman Governor Quirinius or King Herod? Why didn't they appear to the Jewish high priest at the Temple? Again the question remains, why shepherds?

The Mishnah, a collection of documents recording oral traditions governing the lives of Jewish people during the period of the Pharisees, considers the possibility that these were not shepherds of ordinary sheep. Alfred Edersheim (1825-1889) provides a fascinating answer to our question in his book 'The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah'. Writing about these shepherds, Edersheim referenced the Jewish Mishnah. One regulation in the Mishnah "expressly forbids the keeping of flocks throughout the land of Israel, except in the wildernesses - and the only flocks otherwise kept, would be those for the Temple-services".

Jerusalem and Bethlehem, and their surrounding fields were not in the wilderness where ordinary flocks of sheep were kept. Therefore, according to the Jewish regulations, the flocks under the care of the shepherds near Bethlehem must have been "for the Temple-services." These shepherds watched over sheep destined as sacrifices in the Temple at Jerusalem.

Here lay the significance of the Shepherds of Bethlehem. If the flocks of sheep are kept for the temple services; the shepherds watching over it are also specially chosen for the purpose and not like the nomadic ordinary shepherds of Bethlehem.

Edersheim wrote, "...everything points to these shepherds watching over sheep used for sacrifice. What would they have thought when they heard: 'Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord' " (2:11). The message of the angels signified, among other things, that the time of animal sacrifices would soon end. The offering of Jesus Christ, the Savior would soon take place. It is no wonder that these shepherds "glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen". This clearly resonates with the celebratory spirit of Christmas, a traditional time for celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Let's remember why he came - not only to live but also to die - the perfect sacrifice for sin, once and for all.

Like the Shepherds of significance, we all are specially chosen for God's purposes and are dignified enough to hear the good news from God and to proclaim to the world. As the chosen shepherds heard the good news and travelled far to see the incarnated God, let us also set for a search in our life to see the divine Child. Let us hurry and join the shepherds saying:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace men and women, on whom his favor rests"

He is Coming

**SHERIN P THAMPY
DWARKA**



The beautiful season of advent is here!

Just close your eyes and ask yourself a few questions

Do I really love Jesus?

Am I really thankful to him?

Do I attend the Holy Mass ? Do I prepare myself for the Mass?

And only you yourself knows the right answer.

When you look at the cross you think God used to love us so much back then but when you see the Holy Eucharist you see how much god loves you NOW.

Holy Eucharist helps us to unite with God and it separates us from sin. My God is HERO

Holy

Eucharist

Real

One

He is coming !

People will try to pull you down , people will not be in favour of you, situations may go wrong but you should know this is not permanent the tables will turn because our God is the God of justice. He is coming!

That door might have got closed. That career might have got ruined. But you should have faith because our God is the God of the impossible. Faith doesn't mean that God changes your situation sometimes it means he changes you .

He is coming !

God sees beyond our sins and inabilities. And he gives us more than we deserve. Faith is not knowing what the future holds but knowing who holds the future.

CELESTIAL ADIEU

BY C.I George

Gabriel was gloomy. He fanned his wings haltingly and fixed his face towards the Elohim reverently, covering his face occasionally to escape the piercing beams of light that was emitting from the Eternal. Atmosphere was pregnant with expectations.

Darkness devoured the Earth. Chosen Prophets of the Elohim were ignored. False prophets ruled the roost.

'This should not be so' thundered the Elohim. How I wanted not to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. But.. "she and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things before me." Passing years will be detrimental. I need to go in the midst of my dear children.

Moses watched the Eternal expectantly. May be my presence will be of a solace to the earthlings. I implore Thee to allow me to visit the planet earth and make them understand.... Moses conveyed his mind with all humbleness. Everything is scripted. Elohim was laid in the sepulchre to be opened through the womb. Elohim shrank to be a form. Heavenly Vault was opened ready to be implanted and deposited in a human female. Gabriel started to narrate. 'Oh the High, You sent me to Daniel'. You made me to interpret the dreams of Daniel. You entrusted me mighty things. I pray You Lord, not to visit the earth planet. Your righteousness is supreme. Your kingdom is the kingdom of hope and life. Give Your mirror images more time to bend their ways. "

Gabriel, hear me: "I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve."

it is my supplication dear Mighty, you made me to guard the Tree of Souls, please allow me this time to take guard of your soul before handing over to the Angel of Conception. Let me allow shielding you while you are there in the midst of your dear ones on the earth!

Celestial bodies altered its path and unhinged.

The expansive and the universe decidedly took a new turn. Prophets read and read the Scriptures. By narrowing the eyes and persistent reading of the Scriptures, to find out the reason for the deviation of stars, eyes of prophets hurt more and more.

There must be a reason. The time is ripe. King of the Universe is going to visit the earth. Scriptures definitely said so. Aaron's lineage is going to receive good news of blessings. Prayers of devout and godly Zachariah and Elizabeth were touching the Heaven like a pillar of cloud. Emancipation from the bondage of barrenness needs to be broken. Angel of Conception was waiting with bated breath the arrival of John. Gabriel took a soul from the Tree of Souls and reverently handed over to the Angel of Conception. The lot for once in a life time honour of burning the incense fell on Zechariah. That was the apt time. Gabriel slowly and slowly entered into the Altar. Beloved Zechariah, I am here because of the Supreme. Your prayers have been answered. Owner of the Universe has chosen you and Elizabeth to bear a son who would be the harbinger of Messiah as prophesied in the Scriptures. Your son will be filled with the Holy Spirit and will declare the arrival of our Lord. Omnipresence was ready to be entered to the womb of a woman. As a final appeal, Gabriel tried to dissuade the Powerful. The decision of Yahweh was unalterable... The condescension of God to be a human being and the manifestation of Love was to be born of a mortal woman was definite. Suffering, temptations and pain need to be judged by the world and to be shouldered the sins of the world was sure. The love and willingness of God to die for mankind was firm and unshakable. Angels appeared and declared the immense visit of the Elohim to the fallen land. Cherubim started a humming. A painful and melodious sound filled the Heavenly abode. The palpable anguish was present on the cherubim. Heavenly Father looked the mass compassionately. Moses and Elijah ceased of the situation. Their glance of mercy soothed heavenly congregation to a limit. Cherubim took a cheerful note. Dejection and delight mixed and cherubic assembly laughed and wept together.... Most High put the seal on the command and Gabriel became the tongue. Your wish may be fulfilled. Go and give the Good News to Mary! Waves of cheerfulness passed through the Heaven like an uncontrollable whirlwind. Gabriel whizzed to Nazareth. Mary was kneeling and praying to the Most High as usual. Oh, Mary! stop being afraid. You have found favour with God. Listen! You will become pregnant and give birth to a Son. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High...I am the Lord's servant. Let it be so, Mary replied. God made manifest in human form. Womb of Earth was opened. Jesus....God...Son of God...God Himself.... walked on the earth..Moses started praying as usual. He was waiting the Supreme to be joined in the Unity! Moses and Elijah watched the heavenly throne. The Most High was still there on the throne!



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HOST PARISH
MGOCSM GHAZIABAD
AT LOGOS 2019

THE FLIP POINT BY SHIJIN S. MATHEW

Before starting with this let me tell you that this is a real story and how it really changed my perspective about destiny and god's plan (or at least what I think was God's Plan for me).

From my childhood I was obsessed with Linkin Park and The kind of Music they made, which I am sure that every kid from the nineties might have heard. Their lead singer Chester Bennington took his own life, which shook me to my soul and it is still hard for me to believe that someone who had everything or could have everything took his own life. I mean he sang many songs that had many life lessons. What could have gone wrong? I got to know that he was suffering from Depression, which could be explained to the mass as the mental poison , which eats you and makes you feel so heavy from the burden of sorrow that can't be explained to another person, you will cry till your eyes get swollen and all your tear glands would dry up but you will not understand the reason why you are so sad . The brightest of Sun could not light up the darkness in your heart. That sounds terrible right? But the fact is one in every ten people in this world are going through this.

So, I started working in a BPO for and the Job was really good I mean for the fact that there was 3 hours of compulsory Game time. Yeah, who wouldn't love it right? It was on the first day that I met a guy who was a little older than the guys who were there to join but was Young at heart and all he was interested in was playing games when everyone was there for the salary and kept on asking about the salary.



SESSION BY COR
EPISCOPIA PHILIP
THOMAS FOR
EAST ZONE
MGOCSM
MEMBERS

During the ten hours of shift we got long one hour breaks and we both talked about everything under the sun and even talked after the shift hours and stayed in the compound for a while that's when I knew that he had a decade of experience in this field and made money which was six times the money he is making now, Okay that made me curious. In my head like usual, I had a team meeting with my different alter egos and each of them had different questions. So I asked him what did go wrong. So he tells me a long Story how he "Failed to die too", All his life he had been failing not even a single time he had a victory.

The closest he came to happiness was to see his parents healthy and happy , His dad had a business which to his destiny and like a cliché to every tragic story was meant to go bankrupt. He ended up in a janata flat within days from where like a hero he managed to buy his own house from all the work he had been doing. But the temptations in life never stops its like a video game if you are going the right way then only the enemies will show up. So this guy's mom she becomes sick and his Dad he met with an accident. His only relief in this life - the love of his life who promised to never leave his side left him. His office gets raided by the police and was charged for scamming people. Within one month span he lost everything he had that kept him sane. Now is the time when the "joker" from the "Dark knight" what once said becomes true "All it takes is one bad day to reduce the sanest man alive to lunacy. " He called up everyone he knew if someone could get back to him and talk but there was no one close enough with whom he could share how he felt. But as I said earlier this was the moment for darkness to crawl inside him and it did. All he could think every time was how he had failed himself as a person. Disappointed in himself he sits in the bathroom and puts a sharp cut on his hand with a blade from his shaving kit and written on the mirror let me see if the death could fail me with the blood oozing out his blood vessels and fainted inside but he failed there too, And wakes up at a hospital and sees all the people he thought would never show up and his father tells him that " why are you tensed kid, Let me do the thinking you chill and live your life". After telling this all he cries, but this darkness it haunts you once you are alone he says all this thoughts it comes up again and again and makes him suicidal but this past week he had someone to talk and to laugh with and today was my last day and he thanked me while we parted our ways and goes on adding that he started reading the "Bible" few weeks back and never thought that a Christian person would help him when he needed someone. I said I never mentioned "bible" or any scripture for that matter he says its not what you said but what the one above us decided for us. For me that was "the flip point" where my entire viewpoint about "god's plan" and how the world works changed.

BIRTH OF LIGHT

Written by Reshma Mariam Saju

On a lonely, desolate night
He came into my life, with a bright light
He wiped away my tears
And
He erased my fears.
He met me on my path to be doomed
His love within me bloomed
I once was bound, by the slavery of sin
I got free, when He became my kin.
In a world, where I was lost
On the cross, He paid the cost
His flesh was torn, and He bled
To save me, from the world of the dead.
His love was born, within my soul
And His love, made me whole
You might be wondering, who this is?
His name is Jesus, and I am His.



Visit to Jivodaya Ashralayam,
organization for destitute and
mentally ill women

